



HEALTH UPDATE (#47)

2011 Public Health Reminders for Summer Camps in West Virginia

TO: West Virginia Summer Camps

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LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO WEST VIRGINIA CAMP DIRECTORS IN YOUR AREA AND OTHER APPLICABLE PARTNERS

Summer camps are a wonderful way to keep West Virginia children active in the summer. However, every year a few camps experience issues with outbreaks of infectious disease and unwelcomed animal or insect exposure. The following are a few suggestions on how to prevent or be better prepared for those issues, if they occur.

- Work with your local health department (LHD) to establish lines of communication in advance of camp opening. Find the LHD that serves your county at http://www.wvdhhr.org/wvlocalhealth/lhd_profiles/lhdreport/index.asp
- Be watchful for outbreaks and clusters of disease in campers and staff.
- Report all disease outbreaks and animal bites to your LHD immediately.
- Keep accurate and up to date health records on all campers at your facility.
- Be aware that your local health department can assist with prevention and control of tick-borne and mosquito-borne diseases; staph infections; head lice; and outbreaks of vomiting, diarrhea or other conditions. Your LHD can also help with management of animal bites and bat exposures. Finally, your LHD is an excellent source of information on childhood and adult immunizations.

For further information, contact your local health department or the Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at (800)-423-1271 or go to <http://www.wvidep.org> for topic specific health information.

This message was directly distributed by the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health to local health departments. Receiving entities are responsible for further disseminating the information as appropriate to the target audience.

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